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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Europe (Soviet-occupied and Soviet Union) DATE DISTR. 28 June 1950

SUBJECT OB Situation of Soviet Ground Forces
According to Information Obtained from
10 April to 10 May 1950 NO. OF PAGES 13PLACE
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Overall

1. a. In general, the reports received from the Soviet-occupied European countries up to the beginning of May 1950 do not indicate any changes in the strength of the Soviet Ground Force units during recent weeks. There are no indications that any units were withdrawn from the Soviet-occupied countries or that any new units arrived from the Soviet Union. Of note is a report stating that unusually large amounts of empty rolling stock were dispatched from the Cottbus and Frankfurt/Oder area to the east in late March and early April 1950. The information indicates the possibility of an assembly of rolling stock east of the Oder-Neisse line for military transportation operations. Small shipments of replacements and supplies arrived in the Soviet Zone of Germany from the Soviet Union in March and April 1950. The evacuation to the Soviet Union of Soviet dependents and the replacement by bachelor officers of married officers, whose terms of duty in the Soviet Zone of Germany were over, were observed up to the beginning of April 1950, as had been observed throughout the Winter of 1949/1950.

b. The training of troops was generally conducted at military post drill grounds or in the environs of military posts in March and early April 1950. Inspections, demonstrations and advanced combat practice firing were indicative of the end of this training period. Training marches of several days showed that the troops prepared for their forthcoming transfer to the troop training grounds. Troops in the Soviet Zone of Germany started leaving for troop training grounds in early April 1950, as expected. Reports on the departure of most of

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the divisions and headquarters units of the Eighth Gds Army, the Third Gds Mecz Army and the Fourth Gds Mecz Army were received. Reports from the Soviet Zone of Austria also indicated that troops started moving to troop training grounds about 20 April 1950.

c. Reports received between 10 April and 10 May 1950 confirmed or supplemented available data on the OB situation of the Soviet Ground Force units in the Soviet Zones of Germany and Austria.

2. Germanya. General

(1) Reports received from 10 April to 10 May 1950 confirmed the known disposition of the Soviet Occupation Forces Germany up to mid-April 1950.

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(2) Thirty-two units were confirmed or newly identified by precise data ([] numerical designations of units, names of officers) contained in reports received from 10 April to 10 May 1950 (see para 2, b (1)).

(3) Annex (list) gives detailed data on the Soviet Order of Battle situation in Germany as of mid-April 1950.

b. Order of Battle Data

The following units in the Soviet Zone of Germany were confirmed or newly identified between 10 April and 10 May 1950.

(1) GHQ units of the Group of Occupation Forces Germany (GOFG)

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36th Pon Bridge Regt, [] in Rosslau-Meinsdorf until 30 March 1950

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? No Gun Arty Regt/30th Gds Gun Arty Brig, [] in Potsdam-Nedlitz until March 1950

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? No Engr Brig (Regt?), [] in Potsdam-Nedlitz until 5 March 1950

(2) Eighth Gds Army

Army Headquarters and CinC Colonel General Boldin in Weimar until March 1950

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880th Engr Bn/XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, [] in Gera until 25 February 1950

Hq 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, [] in Rudolstadt until 23 March 1950

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154th Sig Bn, [] in Rudolstadt
until 22 March 1950

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68th Gds Mecz Regt, [] in Halle
until 3 April 1950

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? No (114th?) Hds Mtrcl Bn/21st Gds Mecz
Div, [] in Halle until
17 February 1950

(3) Third Shock Army

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890th Engr Bn/ LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps, []
[] in Tangermünde until 22 February
1950

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? No Engr Bn/207th Mtz Rifle Div, in Hillers-
leben until 30 March 1950

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Hq 19th Gds Mecz Div, [] in Wuensdorf
until mid-March 1950

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60th Mecz Regt, [] in Parchim until
17 December 1949

(4) First Gds Mecz Army

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265th Gds Mort Regt, [] in Wurzen
until 17 March 1950

9th Gds Mtrcl Bn, in Dresden until 14 March
1950

(5) Second Gds Mecz Army

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Hq 31st AAA Div, [] in Schoenwalde
until 22 March 1950

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49th Gds Tank Regt, [] in Neuruppin
until 22 January 1950

25X1C

Hq 1st Mecz Div, [] in Doeberitz-
Krampnitz until 3 April 1950

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35th Mecz Regt, [] in Doeberitz
until 4 April 1950

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219th Tank Regt, [] in Doeberitz
until 4 April 1950

(6) Third Gds Mecz Army

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Hq 14th Gds Mecz Div, [] in Jueter-
bog until 7 April 1950

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49th Gds Mecz Regt, [] in Jueterbog
until 7 April 1950

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(7) Fourth Gds Mecz Army

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35th (?) Gds Mecz Regt, [] in
Bernau until 4 April 1950

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16th Gds Mecz Regt, [] in Bad
Freienwalde until 3 March 1950

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? No (28th?) Tank Bn/16th Gds Mecz Regt,
[] in Bad Freienwalde until
12 February 1950

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17th Gds Mecz Regt, [] in Ebers-
walde until 27 January 1950

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Hq 7th Gds Mecz Div, [] in Fuersten-
walde until mid-March 1950

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57th Gds Tank Regt, [] in Frankfurt/
Oder until 18 January 1950

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288th AAA Regt, [] in Frankfurt/
Oder until 11 February 1950

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111th Tank Regt, [] in Prenzlau
until 4 April 1950

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61st Gds Tank Regt, [] in Doeberitz
until 27 February 1950

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248th Gds HL Bn, [] in Krampnitz
until 12 April 1950

(8) Unit, the superior headquarters of which is
not known

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367th Gds SP Arty Regt (?), [] in
Rathenow until 19 March 1950

c. Strength and Organization

(1) No new information on the strength and organi-
zation of Soviet units has been obtained.

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d. Personnel

(1) No large-scale influx of recruits from the Soviet Union was observed in March and early April 1950. As observed during previous months only a few, mostly small, shipments of replacements arrived, probably to fill vacancies.

A troop train carrying about 1,000 troops, coming from Brest Litovsk, proceeded toward Berlin on 20 March 1950. About 600 young troops from the Soviet Union arrived in Jueterbog on 1 and 7 April 1950.

About 240 replacements were reported to arrive in Potsdam-Medlitz in early March 1950, about 200 in Hillersleben in mid-March 1950 and about 150 in the Potsdam Delius Kaserne on 11 April 1950.

It is considered possible that replacements may also have been shipped to replacement depots in Jueterbog and, possibly, Magdeburg, from where they were distributed to units.

(2) The following information on the evacuation of trained personnel to the Soviet Union was received:

Small groups of 10 to 20 men each left Stendal, possibly toward Magdeburg, in late February and early April 1950. Groups of 20 to 30 men of the 1925 and 1926 classes left the Potsdam Delius Kaserne for Frankfurt/Oder in March 1950.

It is assumed that trained personnel due for discharge also left other military posts in a similar manner.

(3) The evacuation of Soviet dependents to the Soviet Union and the replacement by bachelor officers of married officers, whose term of duty in the Soviet Zone of Germany was over, were still observed in March and early April 1950. Reports on the arrival in the Soviet Zone of Germany of young officers were received in increasing number; e.g. 120 young officers arrived in Brandenburg in late January 1950.

200 officers (lieutenants up to and including captains), coming from Brest, arrived in Jueterbog on 1 April 1950 and a shipment of 250 young officers passed through Frankfurt/Oder, heading toward Eberswalde, on 22 April 1950. New officers arrived in Bernburg in early March 1950 while most dependents left at that time. Most of the married officers in Gera were replaced by bachelor officers in March 1950. Numerous trains carrying Soviet dependents left, via Kuestrin, in March and early April 1950.

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e. Training

(1) Troops, particularly young replacements, were trained at barracks and later in the neighboring terrain in March 1950. Inspections and demonstration exercises (in Potsdam and Halle) and advanced combat practice firing at unit level (at training grounds near military posts) were reported from several military posts. Record firing by troops from Jueterbog was held at the Werder-Markendorf training grounds in mid-March 1950. An artillery regiment of the 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig from the Delius Kaserne, Potsdam, marching in battalions, went to the Jueterbog area by road in early March 1950 and returned to its post immediately upon completion of record firing practice.

Similar observations were made in Bernburg and Cottbus.

At numerous military posts, including Pasewalk, Krampnitz and Gera, motorized training marches of several days, including night marches, have been held since mid-March 1950.

(2) In March 1950 more advance details arrived at troop training grounds used in 1949, e.g. advance details of the 19th Gds Mecz Div arrived at Letzling Heath, those of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div in Ohrdruf and those of the 6th Gds Mecz Div in the Templin area.

(3) According to reports on rail movements, military posts and other information, the transfer of troops to the troop training grounds, expected to take place during the first half of April 1950, started about 10 April 1950.

Numerous reports clearly indicate the following movements:

(a) Eighth Gds Army

Numerous westbound trains carrying tank and artillery units, particularly of the 20th and 21st Gds Mecz Divs and the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, passed through Erfurt between 18 and 22 April 1950.

[redacted] the units were de-trained on the Gotha-Eisenach line. It is therefore assumed with a high degree of certainty that, as in 1949, most of the Eighth Gds Army units were transferred to the troop training grounds of Ohrdruf and Kindel near Eisenach. Other reports state that units were entrained in Halle on 17 April 1950 (elements of the 19th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt/21st Gds Mecz Div) and in Zeitz on 18 April 1950 (67th Gds Mecz Regt/20th Gds Mecz Div).

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(b) Third Shock Army

Four trains carrying component units of the 19th Gds Mecz Div, presumably including the 153rd Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of this division, were unloaded in the Haldensleben area (Letzling Heath) between 17 and 25 April 1950.

(c) First Gds Mecz Army

A tank unit of the 8th Gds Mecz Div was detrained in Schwepnitz near Koenigsbrueck on 13 April 1950.

(d) Third Gds Mecz Army

Tank units of the 9th Mecz Div left Cottbus toward Senftenberg on 4 April 1950. The observations between 17 and 27 April 1950 in the Luckenwalde area of tank and motor vehicle columns

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indicate that maneuver activities in the Werder-Markendorf area have been resumed.

(e) Fourth Gds Mecz Army

Component units of the 6th Gds Mecz Div and headquarters units of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army were entrained in the Eberswalde-Britz-Bernau area between 15 and 17 April 1950 and left toward Templin. Troops with weapons and vehicles of all types were detrained in Eberswalde and, after a short stay, left toward Templin.

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Troops of all branches of service left Frankfurt/Oder by rail toward Cottbus

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left Frankfurt/Oder on two trains for an unidentified destination between 16 and 25 April 1950.

It is not known whether the 7th Gds Mecz Div will hold its maneuvers in the Lieberose area (trains heading toward Cottbus) as it did in 1949 or in the Templin area (motor vehicles of the division were detrained in Eberswalde between 25 and 28 April 1950). The 1950 training area of the ? No AAA Div is not known. The division held its 1949 summer firing at Letzling Heath.

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(f) GHQ Units of the GOFG

Artillery units of the 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig and component units of the 2d Gds AAA Div were reported to leave Potsdam for Altengrabow between 23 March and 3 April 1950. The 2d Gds AAA Div, together with all other AAA units stationed in the Soviet Zone of Germany, held the 1949 maneuvers at the Letzling Heath.

(4) The information can be summarized as follows:

Indications are that most of the troop training grounds were occupied by the same units which were there in 1949. Although there have been only preliminary indications from the area of the Second Gds Mecz Army and only a little information from the Third Shock Army (19th Gds Mecz Div and 207th Mtz Rifle Div), the clearly discernible movements in the other army areas indicate that the component units of all armies started moving to troop training grounds during the first half of April 1950.

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g. Transportation Situation

(1) After an initial improvement, the transportation situation of the Soviet Zone railroad showed a marked deterioration in April 1950. The number of loaded trains awaiting dispatch totaled 78 trains on 4 April and 81 on 14 April 1950. This is due to a shortage of locomotives and coal. Of a total of 4,289 scheduled freight trains, 531 (more than 12 percent) had to be canceled on 14 April 1950 (359 for shortage of coal). On the same day, of a total of 3,831 passenger trains, 123 (about 3 percent) had to be canceled (18 for lack of coal).

(2) The locomotive coal reserves have dwindled to 30,674 tons, 21,347 tons of which are emergency reserve, the remainder, 9,327 tons, service coal on hand. This amount represents two daily consumption rates. However, measures have now been initiated by the Soviets to correct this situation.

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(3) Construction Projects

(a) The Marzahn-Karow section of the northern half of the Berlin Outer Freight Ring which is being reconstructed has been put into operation. The completion of the remaining sections is being pushed.

(b) The construction and putting into operation of a connection loop west of Jueterbog has improved the railroad connections of the Jueterbog-Altes Lager and Neues Lager Camps and relieved the single-track Berlin-Halle trunk line by eliminating shunting operations at the Jueterbog railroad station.

(c) The train density on the Elsterwerda-Horka/Wehrkitch line, of special importance for the Soviets, is to be increased by the improvement of the automatic blocking system. This work is scheduled to be completed this summer.

(d) A mobile track construction workshop sent to Johannegeorgenstadt in late March 1950 indicates that the planned construction of a second track on the Aue-Schwarzenberg-Johannegeorgenstadt line is to be started. This project is to improve the railroad system in the uranium mining district.

(4) Train Densities

Presumably by order of the Soviets the train densities of the lines and railroad stations (loading ramps and cart roads) in the Berlin railroad district had to be calculated at short notice in the last week of March.

(5) Empty Trains Dispatched to the East

The dispatching of an unusually large number of empty trains to the East from the area of Cottbus and Frankfurt/Oder began in late March and early April 1950. The composition of these trains (boxcars, flatcars and heavy-duty flatcars) may possibly indicate an assembly of transportation for military purposes.

(6) The Soviet Zone Railroad Headquarters has made provision to run 286 special trains for the Whitfun rally of the Free German Youth. This is only possible at the expense of scheduled passenger and freight traffic. Traveling traffic will be reduced to such a degree that it will practically come to a standstill during the period concerned. Only the interzonal traffic and Soviet shipments will not be affected by this measure.

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h. MGB/MVD Units

(1) Information from several towns stated that MGB offices were recently dissolved and the personnel shipped away. In some cases small rear details remained.

(2) The following information on MGB/MVD troops in the Soviet Zone of Germany is available:

(a) The barracks on Leninstrasse (formerly Planitzstrasse), Chemnitz, were still occupied by a unit of 300 to 400 men in early April 1950.

(b) The Dresden-Weixdorf Luftkriegsschule was still occupied on 2 March 1950 as previously reported.

Numerous motor vehicles [redacted] were seen at the Bucher Kaserne (on Marien Allee) which was recently observed to be occupied by 500 to 600 MGB/MVD troops. The tactical symbol of a regimental headquarters was seen at the barracks gate on 15 March 1950.

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(c) The former Oberschule (high school) on Thurnerstrasse (previously referred to as Tannerstrasse), Freiberg, was still occupied by about 300 troops, allegedly organized into two units. Another unit of unidentified strength was stationed in Brand-Erbisdorf, south of Freiberg, on 29 March 1950.

(d) The barracks on Reilstrasse, Halle, were occupied by 500 to 600 troops on 20 March and 6 April 1950 according to coinciding information [redacted]

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[redacted] reported that a regimental headquarters and one battalion were in the barracks.

(e) MGB/MVD troops were for the first time observed in the former Reiter Kaserne, Ludwigslust, and at the Techentin airfield on 5 and 6 March 1950. The strength of the units is not known.

(f) An MGB/MVD unit of about 200 men was again observed in Stendal on 14 March 1950.

(g) An MGB/MVD unit of unidentified strength was first observed in the Schierke-Elend area on 15 March 1950. The unit was probably linked with uranium mining projects in that area.

i. Supply Situation

A report on Soviet major supply installations in the Soviet Zone of Germany has been submitted. Another report on numerous other supply installations will be forwarded soon.

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3. Austria

Information obtained up to the beginning of May 1950 yielded the following data supplementing the previously known OB situation of the Soviet forces in the Soviet Zone of Austria.

a. General

The general disposition of the Soviet Occupation Forces Austria remained constant up to mid-April 1950. Elements of all divisions of the Central Group of Forces and of the GHQ AAA unit were identified at their respective military posts up to the first half of April 1950. Recent months' training of the troops in Austria is believed to have been essentially the same as that of the Soviet troops in Germany.

b. The following units were confirmed []

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(1) 106th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt/13th Gds Mecz Div, [] in Kagran up to 20 March 1950 .

(2) 44th Gds Mecz Regt/13th Gds Mecz Div, [] in the Trost Kaserne, Vienna up to 14 March 1950 .

(3) 722d Motor Trans Bn/13th Gds Mecz Div in Vienna up to 18 March 1950 .

c. Beginning of the Maneuver Period

Information from Korneuburg indicates that the units of the 13th Gds Mecz Div were about to leave for troop training grounds on 21 April 1950 (entraining of ammunition, assembly of empty rolling stock). The anticipated transfer to the troop training grounds started in the area of the 13th Gds Mecz Div, according to a recent report stating that component units of the 13th Gds Mecz Div were entrained in Vienna between 23 and 26 April 1950. The observation of a truck heading for Doellersheim indicates that at least the 13th Gds Mecz Div went to that troop training grounds as it did in 1949 (39). Although pertinent information is available only from the area of the 13th Gds Mecz Div it can be assumed that the component units of the 95th Gds Itz Rifle Div and the GHQ AAA unit of the Central Group of Forces also started leaving for troop training grounds.

4. Hungary - Rumania

a. Whereas no information on Soviet troops in Hungary was received during the period concerned,

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several reports on Soviet troops in Rumania, particularly in the Banat, were obtained. The situation in that area can be rated only with reservation as all reports were supplied by [redacted] thus eliminating any possibility of comparison with, and confirmation by, other [redacted]

b. Several Soviet units, including a tank regiment and an artillery regiment, were observed in the Timisoara-Arad area between late October 1949 and early March 1950. Other observations and [redacted]

indicates that the troops may total about one division. It is not known however whether the troops belong to a unit which was previously assumed to be stationed in Rumania or to a unit which may have been transferred from the Soviet Union to Rumania during the Summer of 1949.

c. More Soviet motorized units, including tank and AAA units, arrived in Timisoara between 2 and 10 April 1950. [redacted]

The observation of troops bivouacking in that area indicates that they may have stayed there temporarily while en route to maneuver grounds.

d. Soviet units, including SP artillery and rocket launcher units, left their military posts of Timisoara and Arad at the same time, heading in a general northwest direction (possibly also going to maneuvers). These troops, [redacted]

belonged to the unit which was assumed to be stationed in the Banat during the Winter of 1949/1950.

5. Soviet Union

a. All military personalities mentioned in Soviet newspapers as being elected to the Supreme Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities on 12 March 1950 will be listed in another report unless they were mentioned in a previous report compiled from the lists of candidates nominated for the elections.

b. Soviet documents procured at military posts in the Soviet Zone of Germany gave further data on units stationed in the Soviet Union. The following OB data are of special interest:

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